

**REMARKS - General**

By the above amendment, Applicants have amended the title to emphasize the novelty of the invention.

Also applicants have rewritten all claims to define the invention more particularly and distinctly so as to overcome the technical rejections and define the invention patentably over the prior art and the Section 102 rejection based on Hemphill, US Patent 5,696,895.

Below are some comments from the inventor:

"First, in the referred patent (Hemphill et al, USPN 569895), there is no mention of any two network nodes automatically pairing up with each other to establish a peer-to-peer checking mechanism. Hemphill et al describe a peer-to-peer relationship that is established by means of a serial communication means between two fixed network nodes. As a serial communication means is required to interconnect every two nodes that are to be paired, the establishment of pairs of any two network nodes cannot take place dynamically and automatically without requiring operator interaction (such as to create further, or modify, serial communications means interconnecting any two nodes).

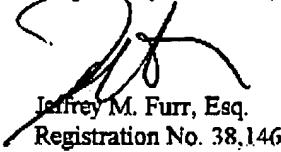
Second, Hemphill et al make no mention of automatically creating a peer-to-peer relationship at power-up of the network or power-up of the network nodes.

Third, in our disclosure, all communication is done through the SAME network that interconnects said nodes, without need of a serial communications connection. This creates significant differentiation because in our disclosure network nodes can be reestablished when desired (whether at power-up or by means of a re-pairing request issued by any network node at any time) because all pair-establishing communications is carried out using the network that interconnects the nodes, and NOT through a fixed serial communications means that can only be modified manually by an operator."

**Conclusion**

For all of the above reasons, applicant submits that the specification and claims are now in proper form, and that the claims all define patentably over prior art. Therefore the applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully solicit.

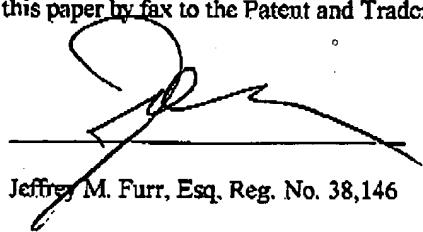
Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey M. Furr, Esq.  
Registration No. 38,146

I hereby certify I have transmitted this paper by fax to the Patent and Trademark Office at 703-746-7239 on 2003. August 14.

2003. August 14.



Jeffrey M. Furr, Esq. Reg. No. 38,146

**RECEIVED**  
**CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

**OCT 14 2003**

**OFFICIAL**